GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2418
ANSWERED ON:01.08.2016
NELP
Shewale Shri Rahul Ramesh;Sundaram Shri P.R.

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Production Sharing Contract awarded under the ninth round of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) along with the quantum of crude oil and natural gas extracted/produced from these oil blocks including investment made in this regard State/UT/blocks-wise including Tamil Nadu;
(b) whether no exploration licence under NELP has been granted since 2012 and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
(c) whether the Government has made any estimation of unexplored oil reserves available in the country as on date and if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to incentivise them in a time bound manner, State/UT/oil block-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (I/C) IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS
(SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN)
(a): Under the ninth round of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) 19 blocks were awarded and Production Sharing Contracts signed thereof. Details are at Annexure-I. No Production Sharing Contract was signed under the ninth round of NELP in the state of Tamil Nadu.
These blocks are under exploration phase and no oil or gas production has been produced so far.
(b): There has been no bidding round under NELP after the 9th round of 2010. Government had initiated process for formulating a new policy for Exploration and Production of Hydrocarbon resources. The new policy named "Hydrocarbon Exploration Licensing Policy (HELP)" has since been notified by the Government on 30th March, 2016.
(c): As per the current estimates out of a total of 28.08 billion tonnes of oil & gas resources in the country about 11.25 billion tonnes of resources could be established till date. Government has initiated project of Re-assessment of Hydrocarbon Resources for Sedimentary Basins and Deep water Areas by collating Geological & Geophysical data acquired over last two decades.
Following steps have been taken to explore the remaining resources:
i. Appraisal of all the remaining sedimentary areas
ii. Expeditious exploration of yet to be explored areas through:
a. Award of exploration areas under HELP
b. Round the year bidding through open acreages licensing system
iii. Following incentives are being offered to expedite exploration and production activities under HELP
a. Easy to administer contractual regime to remove bottlenecks and government intervention for expeditious exploration
b. Graded system of royalty payment for exploration in difficult and deep water areas
c. Freedom in gas pricing and selling on arm length basis.
****